

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION

Executive Committee Meeting

LOCATION

Governor's Council Conference Room
3601 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference

Meeting Date

January 14, 2013
12:00 p.m.

Attendees:

David Flynn
Eric Gebhart, Chair
Taylor Gregg
Ric Nelson
Amy Simpson

Staff:

Richard Sanders, Interim Executive Director
Teresa Holt
Patrick Reinhart
Christie Reinhardt

Prepared by: Jeannette Rice
Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 12:13 p.m.
Roll Call

READING OF THE COUNCIL MISSION

Amy Simpson read the Council's mission statement: Creating change that improves the lives of people with disabilities.

INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GOOD NEWS

Taylor Gregg announced that her cousin who was born with a compromised immune system now has no restrictions on his activities as a result of his bone marrow transplant a year ago, so he can start living like a normal kid instead of staying cooped up inside.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Amy Simpson **MOVED** to approve the agenda. The motion **PASSED**.

APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PAST MEETING

Amy Simpson **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the December 3rd, 2012 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Teresa Holt discussed the Governor's budget. Teresa explained that \$1.5 million for Infant Learning Programs is in the Governor's budget, and the data from Erin Kinavey showed that since they instituted automatic referrals, that amount is what the numbers add up to, so they don't think they should ask for more. Patrick Reinhart stated that the Alaska Mobility Coalition got \$1 million, and Teresa Holt added that the other funds the Council had asked for were not in the budget, including \$650,000 for the Complex Behavior Collaborative, \$150,000 for Council operations, \$500,000 for DD employment grants, and \$100,000 for rural transition services.

OLD BUSINESS

Executive Director Search

Eric Gebhart stated that interviews will be conducted on January 15th and 16th with Kathy Allely, Patrick Reinhart, and Teresa Holt.

January Full Council Meeting Agenda

Eric Gebhart stated that the agenda for the meeting in Juneau has been sent out for review. Teresa Holt stated that she had heard from REACH, and the night that the Council was planning a farewell to Millie Ryan during public testimony is the night of Millie's first board meeting for Project SEARCH. Eric said that he would talk to Millie to see what else could be arranged and would report back to Teresa so they could make a plan.

Trust Advocacy Summit

Eric Gebhart, Kathy Fitzgerald, Ric Nelson, and Teresa Holt will be attending the Trust Advocacy Summit, and Teresa will be doing the presentation because Rich Sanders can't be there.

NEW BUSINESS

Patrick Reinhart stated that the consortium group on employment that is being formed as an advisory board to the employment grant will hold its first meeting on March 5th and 6th in Anchorage and will meet twice a year. This group will consist of about 25 people, including members of partner agencies, special educators, and people who experience disabilities and their families. Patrick asked that this board be put on the full Council meeting agenda in the future so they can report on what they are doing, as it will be going on for five years. Patrick noted that he posted something on the listserv seeking members to serve on this board, and explained that he hopes to schedule the next meeting as a pre-meeting for the October Council meeting to make travel easier for people who are on both.

Rich Sanders asked to discuss who would be going to the Disability Policy Summit in Washington, D.C. April 14th through 17th. Teresa Holt stated that Kathy Fitzgerald usually goes because the Center for Human Development

pays for half of her expenses. Teresa stated that also the chair, vice chair, executive director, and a staff member go. Ric Nelson said that he already had Michelle get hotel reservations for five people.

REPORTS

Chair's Report

Eric Gebhart thanked everyone for their patience, as he has been out of contact more than expected after shoveling too much snow, but he is now back at work in Nenana. He thanked the members of the transition team, especially Tara Horton and Ric Nelson, for keeping things going in his absence and making sure things are ready for next week in Juneau.

Committee Reports

Legislative Committee

David Flynn reported that the Legislative Committee meets tomorrow, and the agenda has been sent out. David deferred to Teresa Holt to discuss the choice of three position papers to be prepared.

Teresa mentioned eight priorities, including the five Governor's budget items previously discussed under Correspondence and three policy recommendations: SESA reauthorization and funding increase; a respectful language bill which would remove the term "mental retardation" from all state statutes and regulations; and Employment First legislation. She explained that since \$1.5 million is in the budget for ILP, it can be dropped from the top three.

Rich Sanders noted that many of the Council's sister boards are also pushing for the Complex Behavior Collaborative, and the Trust has developed some papers with data from the first year that they will be using at the Trust Advocacy Summit. Rich advised that the Council should continue to mention it as a priority, but Council members can use their time with legislators to promote other priorities since the CBC will be covered by other groups.

The committee agreed that SESA reauthorization should be one of the three priorities. The group went on to discuss the supported employment grant for people with developmental disabilities, and the Employment First movement, which applies to all people with disabilities. Teresa explained that Employment First is a philosophy which not all of the sister boards agree with, so the committee decided that they should make the \$500,000 grant for supported employment a priority, and discuss Employment First legislation as a strategy.

Teresa summed up the discussion: CBC, SESA, and supported employment would be the top three priorities, and the others would be shown as “other things we support”. David Flynn stated that the Legislative Committee would work on developing those three position papers at tomorrow’s meeting.

DD Committee

Ric Nelson reported that the DD Committee did not meet this month, but the rate regulations are out. Ric stated that he and Carrie Predeger will meet this week to go over what the Council is going to propose, and their comments are due by January 18th.

Education Committee

Taylor Gregg introduced Christie Reinhardt as the new staff to the Education Committee. Christie stated that the Inclusive Practice Awards nominations have closed, and they have received ten nominations from all over the state, ranging from aides to entire school teams. Christie stated that the packets will be sent out today so Education Committee members can vote online, and the award luncheon will be at ASSEC at the Hilton Hotel on February 5th from 12:15 to 1:45.

Christie Reinhardt noted that the ASSEC conference is February 2nd through 8th, with a pre-conference on the 2nd and 3rd and post-conference on the 7th and 8th. Presenters will include Larry Kortering from Appalachian State University; Ron Glodoski, author and motivational speaker; and Michelle Garcia Winner, known for her book *Thinking About You, Thinking About Me*. Rich Sanders will be doing a presentation with Art Arnold on employment transitions, and also one on emergency preparedness.

Teresa Holt added that the State Board of Education passed some new regulations that by 2016 require teacher evaluations are to be 50 percent based on student achievement, which is controversial because it could result in teachers migrating to places where they get good scores instead of where they are most needed. Teresa stated that they gave public testimony and are tracking the issue.

Teresa Holt added that the Department of Ed's annual performance report is not quite done yet, but Christie will be attending a stakeholder meeting tomorrow to give input on the report.

Early Intervention Committee

Amy Simpson welcomed Christie Reinhardt as staff to the Early Intervention Committee. Amy stated that the EIC did a lot of work over the past few months on the \$3 million ask for AILPA, and next they have to provide comment on the annual progress report for ILP, which will be the focus of tomorrow's meeting.

Rural Services Ad Hoc Committee

Teresa Holt reported that the telepractice survey results are in, with 85-90 percent of DD providers responding, and she and Carrie now have to go over the responses and try to figure out how they can get SDS to use technology to improve services for people with developmental disabilities.

Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee

Ric Nelson stated that he and Carrie are meeting later about the letter.

Interim Executive Director's Report

Rich Sanders remarked that most of the preparations are done for the full Council meeting in Juneau, and all of the speakers have confirmed that they will be there on the first day. Kaylssa is working on organizing meetings with legislators, and they still need to finish the position papers with today's consensus.

Rich reported that with the coordinated communication funds, the Council is preparing to run some “You Know Me” TV and radio ads from the time of the Council meeting through Key Campaign. The other part of those funds are being used to produce a DVD with stories and information about employment that will be distributed to school districts, parents, and others, and will be available online.

Rich noted that the Trust Advocacy Summit is right after the Council meeting in Juneau, then the Trust has a meeting on the 30th and 31st at which Teresa will do a report for the Council.

Rich stated that the Five-Year Plan has been completed and is now at the printers, and it looks really good. Teresa added that they should have it for the Council meeting.

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting will be on Monday, February 4th, from noon to 1:30.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 1:24 p.m.